

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-19, which are all of the pending claims, under 35 U.S.C. 112, as being indefinite, and further rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent application publication no. 2004/0181753 (Michaelides). Claim 19, it may be noted, was not rejected over the prior art. Also, the Examiner asked that the specification be checked for spelling, grammar and typing errors.

In rejecting Claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 112, the Examiner objected to the description in the independent claims referring to the independent replaceability of various components, and the Examiner objected to the phrase “field length field” in Claim 19.

Applicants respectfully traverse the first of the above-mentioned reasons for the rejection of Claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 112, and traverses the rejection of Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102. Claim 19 is being amended to address the Examiner’s specific objection to the language of this claim.

Further, Applicant’s Attorneys have carefully reviewed the specification, as requested by the Examiner, and this opportunity is being taken to make two minor editorial corrections. For instance, in paragraph 17, a comma is being added after “For example”, and in paragraph 24, the semi-colon after “as” is being changed to a colon.

In the Office Action, the Examiner commented that in section 19 of the application, the word “opfield” is misspelled. Applicant notes that paragraph 29 does not include the word “opfield.” This word was in paragraph 24, and the spelling of that word was corrected in Applicant’s previous Amendment dated July 11, 2006.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and to withdraw the objection to the specification.

The rejection of Claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 112 based on the Examiner's objection to the description of the independent replaceability of the components is respectfully traversed. This is because this objection appears to be based on a misunderstanding of the language of independent Claims 1, 7 and 13.

In the Office Action (page 3, lines 5-11), the Examiner argues that "the instant specification fails to disclose or teaches or even suggest how the first reading component can be modified, adjusted, and replaced independently by the second receiving component or the third receiving/loading components and vise versa."

Applicant respectfully notes that the claims describe each of the components as being modified, adjusted and replaced independently of, not independently by, the other of the components.

This independent nature of the components is discussed in paragraphs 19-23 of the application. There, it is explained that each of the components 16, 20, 22, 24 and 26 operates independently of the other of the components, so that each component can be modified or replaced without affecting the operation of the other components. Also, as discussed in paragraphs 19-23 of the specification, this independent operation means that the individual components 16, 20, 22, 24 and 26 can be updated or modified by authorized administrators during use of the framework 10. Specific examples of a file or code that can be used with or in framework 10 are shown in Figures 3-6. Accordingly, the specification clearly explains how the

individual components, described in independent Claims 1, 7 and 13, operate independently of each other.

For the reasons set forth above, Claims 1-19 are clear and definite and fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. The Examiner is thus respectfully asked to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 112.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102, the Examiner, in the Office Action (page 3, lines 10-14) stated that “the claimed subject matters are deemed to be indefinite and no patentable weight will be given to the claimed modification, adjusting and replacing operations that applied to the claimed components.”

As discussed above, these claim limitations are clear and definite and would be well understood by those of ordinary skill in the art. As result, these limitations need to be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it is this independent nature of the individual components of the framework of the present invention distinguishes the claims patentably from the prior art.

To elaborate, the present invention relates to mapping data from a source to a destination, and in particular, to doing this in a way that makes it easy to work with different types of data sourced. This is done by providing a framework, or system, having a group of components, each of which can be readily modified or replaced independent of the other components, for handling various functions as data is mapped from the source to the destination. More specifically, the invention provides a plurality of separate components for performing defined functions to map the data from the source to the destination. A first of these components is used for reading the data from the source, and a second of the components is used for receiving the data from the first

of the components and for processing the read data according to a set of rules. A third of the components are used for receiving the data from the second of the components and for loading the data into the data destination. Each of the components operates independently of the other of the components, and each of the components can be modified, adjusted and replaced independent of the other of the components to facilitate mapping data from a plurality of different types of data sources into the data destination.

Mapping data in this way is very useful for a number of reasons. It allows, for example, one application to be accessed by different users in different parts of the world even though those users might use different formats for dates, time and money, or for other reasons. With the present invention, those users do not have to work with a single, worldwide uniform format, but instead can use what formats they are accustomed to using. The present invention can map data in different formats into a single, common database by simply changing or replacing the appropriate component of the mapping process used with a particular individual. And, with the present invention, this is made relatively easy because the components are independent - that is, one component can be changed or replaced without having any affect on the other components.

The prior art does not disclose or suggest the use of such independent components in a process for mapping data from a source to a destination.

Michaelides, the only reference relied on by the Examiner to reject the claims, discloses a software tool for converting a source format to a target format. In operation, a user provides a set of rules specifying how to transform source data from a source format to a target format. This is done by presenting the user with a series of templates that are filled in by the user. An engine is then used to access these rules to transform the data from the source. As shown in

Figure 6 of Michaelides, this software tool can be considered as comprised of a series of functional blocks, including a transformation engine, a formatting engine, a user interface, a feed database and a rule database. These functional blocks, however, do not operate in an independent manner, as the components of the present invention do. For instance, the functional blocks of Michaelides use rules from other functional blocks to process the data. Thus, a change in one functional block may have a direct affect on the specific way another functional block operate.

Independent Claims 1, 7 and 13 describe the above-discussed aspect of the present invention. In particular, each of these claims describes a plurality of separate components for performing defined functions to map the data from the source to the destination. A first of these components is used for reading the data from the source, and a second of the components is used for receiving the data from the first of the components and for processing the read data according to a set of rules. A third of the components are used for receiving the data from the second of the components and for loading the data into the data destination. Each of the components operates independently of the other of the components, and each of the components can be modified, adjusted and replaced independent of the other of the components to facilitate mapping data from a plurality of different types of data sources into the data destination.


The other references of record have been reviewed, and these other references, whether considered individually or in combination, also do not disclose or suggest this feature of the present invention.

Because of the above-discussed differences between Claims 1, 7 and 13 and the prior art, and because of the advantages associated with those differences, these Claims 1, 7 and 13 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. Claims 2-6 and 19 are dependent from, and are allowable with, Claim 1. Likewise, Claims 8-12 are dependent from Claim 7 and are allowable therewith; and Claims 14-18 are dependent from, and are allowable with, Claim 13. The Examiner is, hence, respectfully requested to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102, and to allow these claims and Claim 19.

The amendments being made herein correct editorial matters, and do not raise any new issues or require any further searching by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is believed that entry of this Amendment is appropriate, and such entry is respectfully requested.

For the reasons discussed above, the Examiner is asked to reconsider and to withdraw the objections to the specification, the rejection of Claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 112, and the rejection of Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102, and to allow Claims 1-19. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' Attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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